



Pastoral Perspective through Lenten Lenses

Considered Georges Seurat's greatest work, *A Sunday on La Grande Jatte*—1884 is recognized as being one of the most remarkable paintings of the nineteenth century. Of various family excursions throughout the Midwest, viewing this exhibit on display at the Art Institute of Chicago remains for me one of our more memorable visits into the windy city. Stephen Sondheim's musical *Sunday in the Park with George* (1984) performed on Broadway in New York City will likewise be forever etched in my memory as well.

Curator, Gloria Groom comments on the monumental canvas (measuring approximately ten feet wide) as being among such grand works featuring “complex compositions of modern life whose scale recedes in proportion to the depth of the stage on which they appear.” Having been “shown in Impressionist exhibitions” with its impressive “size, ambition, and subjects,” this magnificent masterpiece was both “praised by champions of the avant-garde and ridiculed by defenders of the academic tradition.”¹



The descriptive online characterizations published concerning this masterwork appeal to my theatrical, technological, and theological sensibilities as a student of the arts, theology, engineering and applied science. “With what resembles scientific precision, the artist tackled the issues of color, light, and form. Inspired by research in optical and color theory, he juxtaposed tiny dabs of colors that, through optical blending, form a single and, he believed, more brilliantly luminous hue. To make the experience of the painting even more intense, he surrounded the canvas with a frame of painted dashes and dots, which he, in turn, enclosed with a pure white wood frame, [like] the one with which the painting is exhibited today. The very immobility of the figures and the shadows they cast makes them forever silent and enigmatic. Like all great masterpieces, *La Grande Jatte* continues to fascinate and elude.”²

I continually find my own experience of biblical and theological reflection upon the gospel narrative texts in scripture a constantly intriguing mystery through the grand journey of faith, especially during the season of Lent. This year's months of March and April (2022) mark the faithful sojourner's third cycle (Year C of three) in the Lenten liturgy from the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL). The ecclesiastical experiences of scriptural readings throughout these several weeks of ecclesial observances in the liturgical calendar leading up to Holy Week afford the church times of refreshing in our journey with Jesus. May the blessings of this time be made manifest in your hearing and seeing anew the Lord whose grace is greater even among us.

Pastor Rex

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¹ <https://www.artic.edu/articles/826/caillebotte-and-seurat-setting-the-stage-for-masterworks>

² <https://www.artic.edu/artworks/27992/a-sunday-on-la-grande-jatte-1884>

CONGRATULATIONS REID & JOANNA

The Deacons recently hosted a celebration commemorating the December 2021 wedding of Reid & Joanna Knuth. This time of fellowship together gave everyone a chance to get to know this wonderful couple better. We wish them a joyous and blessed life together.



Photo left by Eric Rogers. Photos above & below by Dennis Ford.

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ACOLYTE SPOTLIGHT



Our Acolyte Spotlight shines this edition on Violet, the daughter of Eric & Michelle. In her spare time, she enjoys watching TV and

likes to color. Her favorite thing about church is going to Sunday School. Violet's favorite Bible story is Samson the Strong Man.



Thank you, Violet, for serving as Acolyte and blessing our congregation with your service. Photo by Sarona Goodrich.

PW SPRING GATHERING

By Claire Smith

Mark your calendars for a special Presbyterian Women's Association event on Saturday, April 23 at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. Our program will be "The Ballot Box Battle" by The Suffragette Sisters.



In honor of the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage, The Suffragette Sisters (Deb Johnson, Deb Brown, and Marcia Hotopp) bring to life Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Alice Paul who all worked diligently in the 1800's and early 1900's on behalf of women's right to vote.

These contemporary three "Sisters" graduated together from Bluffton High School in 1971 and are retired teachers. Plan now to bring a friend or sister to our spring brunch to enjoy an entertaining and historically informative program.

This program was originally planned in 2020 but was cancelled due to Covid-19.



March 2
6:00pm



Daylight Saving Time Begins
Sunday, March 13

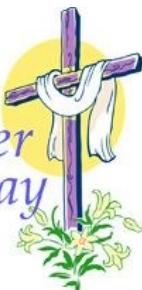
Remember to set your clocks forward one hour before retiring Saturday night, so you will be to church on time Sunday morning!




Easter Service

April 17
9:30am

Easter Sunday



Editor's Note: It is the policy of "The Compass" to refrain from publishing names of children pictured in order to protect their privacy and identity since our newsletter is published on the church website. Adults may be identified in certain circumstances.



Happy Birthday!

MARCH

01 Emily Goodrich
 Gracelyn Runkle
 06 Debbie Ford
 Tristan Rodden
 10 Mark Haggenjos
 19 Rafael Haggenjos
 Shauna Runkle
 23 Emma Rodden
 Julia Schwomeyer
 29 George Hyatt

APRIL

01 Heather Ayers
 15 Fran Austin
 18 Julisa Antonia
 Meranda Teeter
 28 Rachel Benirschke
 30 Carol Green

Every gift makes a difference
 in the life of someone
 who deserves
 God's love and support.





ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
 SPECIAL OFFERINGS
 HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

03.02.22-
 04.17.22

Reminder: You can view, download and print a color copy of this newsletter from the church website www.firstpcportland.org.

Easter Flower Order Form

Once again this year, we will be decorating the Sanctuary with flowers for the Easter service. In addition to lilies, we will also offer hyacinths and tulips. If you would like to purchase flowers, please fill out this order form and place it in the offering plate or return it to the church office by:

Monday, March 28 @ 9:00am.

Name _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

In Celebration of _____

of *Hyacinths* ordered _____ x \$17.50 = ____

of *Tulips* ordered _____ x \$17.50 = ____

of *Lilies* ordered _____ x \$17.50 = ____

If possible, please pay for your flowers at the time you place your order.

Total Amount Enclosed _____



The Youth Sunday School Class recently made a fleece blanket as a mission project. This blanket was delivered to the local homeless shelter for anyone there in need. Before it was delivered, the youth prayed over the blanket asking for God's blessing on the receiver. The youth are planning on making more blankets to help warm those in need. Photos by Debbie Ford.



MUSIC NOTES

By Linda Rodden

Hello, all!

Rex and I had a great meeting today during which we talked about how to move forward with choir safely. We have determined that it's a good idea to plan tentatively for the choir to sing for Easter Sunday, which is April 17, preceded by a rehearsal on Thursday, April 7 at 5:30pm.



We are gathering information over the next few weeks and will put a COVID protocol plan together, taking into account how the next weeks progress with regard to county and state status, and we'll also be monitoring the new landscape we find ourselves living in, hoping to find no new variants or spikes in cases.

I shared with Rex that it's pretty tough to have had very sick family members and friends as well who have been vaccinated and yet have gotten very ill, with no way to see into the future to know how this thing might raise other health problems with long haul issues. So, we want you all to be safe and have a wonderful Easter!

More to come soon!



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Our Vision Statement

“To provide a ministry which will lead people to strengthen their faith in Jesus Christ and reach out with God’s love.”



CALENDAR



March

- 02 6:00pm Ash Wednesday Service
- 03 5:30pm Choir Practice
- 06 1st Sunday in Lent/Communion
- 07 5:30pm Worship & Music Comm. Mtg.
- 08 6:30pm Deacons Meeting
6:45pm Session Meeting
- 13 Daylight Saving Time Begins
2nd Sunday in Lent
- 20 3rd Sunday in Lent
Mr. Rogers Day
1st Day of Spring
- 27 4th Sunday in Lent
- 28 9:00am Easter Flower Order Deadline

April

- 03 5th Sunday in Lent/Communion
- 07 5:30pm Choir Practice
- 10 Palm Sunday
- 11 9:00am Newsletter Deadline
- 12 6:30pm Session Meeting
- 14 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service
- 15 Good Friday
- 17 Easter Sunday
One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Collected
- 22 Earth Day
- 23 10:00am PW Spring Brunch

**Church Office hours:
Monday-Thursday 9:00am-3:00pm
Closed on Friday**

**Sunday Morning Worship 9:30am
in person & via Facebook
Sunday School 10:45am**